ESTHER,

AN

ORATORIO:

OR,

SACRED DRAMA.

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As it is performed

At the KING'S THEATRE *in the Hay-Market.*

The Muſick formerly Compoſed by Mr. HANDEL,
and now Reviſed by him, with ſeveral ADDITIONS.

The Additional Words by Mr. HUMPHREYS.

LONDON:

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[Price One Shilling.]

Dramatis Perſonæ.

ASSUERUS.

ESTHER.

Firſt Iſraelite *Woman, Confident to* Eſther.

MORDECAI.

Firſt Iſraelite.

Second Iſraelite.

HAMAN.

HARTONAH.

Chorus of Iſraelites.

Chorus of Perſian *Officers.*

ESTHER,

ESTHER,

An ORATORIO;

OR,

SACRED DRAMA.

ACT I. SCENE I.

ESTHER, MORDECAI, *and Chorus of* ISRAELITES.

RECIT. *accompanied.*

Iſraelite Woman. BReathe ſoft ye Gales, ye Rills in Silence roll,
And heavenly Peace reſide in *Eſther*'s Soul.

AIR.

Watchful Angels, let her ſhare
Your indulgent daily Care.

RECIT.

Eſth. O King of Kings, Celeſtial Lord!
Whoſe Works our Admiration raiſe,
With Rapture ſhall my Lips record
Thy Majeſty's immortal Praiſe.

Hallelujah.

RECIT.

Mord. With Tranſport, lovely Queen, I ſee
The Wonders God has wrought for thee!
Thy blooming Beauty he beſtows,
To end dejected *Zion*'s Woes.

The Lord of *Aſia*, on his Throne,
Now languiſhes for thee alone,
And, by thy Empire in his Breaſt,
Judæa may again be bleſt.

AIR.

So much Beauty ſweetly blooming,
Shall thy Conſort's Soul enſlave;
In thy lovely Power preſuming,
Ask him all thy Heart can crave.

RECIT.

Again ſhall *Salem*, to the Skies,
From all her Woes triumphant riſe,
And our avenging God, with Speed,
Captivity ſhall captive lead.

ANTHEM.

My Heart is inditing a good Matter, I ſpeak of the Things that I have made to the King.
Kings Daughters were among the honourable Women; upon thy right Hand ſtood the Queen inveſted with Gold.
The King ſhall have Pleaſure in thy Beauty.
Kings ſhall be thy nurſing Fathers, and Queens thy nurſing Mothers.

[Exeunt.

SCENE II.

ASSUERUS, HAMAN, HARBONAH, *and Officers.*

RECIT.

Aſſuer. Let me with Freedom thy Petition know;
Thy Virtues merit all I can beſtow.
Ham. O King, for ever live!— Thy Slave's Requeſt
Flows from the Duty of a loyal Breaſt.

The

The vaſſal *Jews*, thro' all thy Realms, diſdain
A due Subjection to thy gracious Reign;
They boaſt, their God will plead their Cauſe,
Reſtore their Temple, and their Laws.
Ah! would my Sovereign in his Slave confide,
I ſoon would humble their pernicious Pride,
Whoſe impious Ardour to rebel,
Captivity's too mild to quell.

Aſſuer. Go, ſettle, then, my Soul's Repoſe,
Avenge thy Monarch on his Foes;
Purſue their Pride with a relentleſs Hand,
And purge Rebellion from the tainted Land.

AIR.

Endleſs Fame, thy Days adorning,
Glory, brighter than the Morning,
Shall reward thy faithful Care.
Titles, all their Luſtre lending,
To thy lateſt Race deſcending,
Shall thy Prince's Love declare.

[Exit *Aſſuerus.*

SCENE III.

HAMAN, HARBONAH, *and Officers.*

RECIT.

Harb. 'Tis greater far to ſpare, than to deſtroy.
Ham. I'll hear no more, it is decreed,
All the *Jewiſh* Race ſhall bleed.
Hear and obey what *Haman*'s Voice commands:
Hath not the Lord of all the Eaſt,
Giv'n all his Pow'r into my Hands?

Hear, all ye Nations, far and wide,
Which own our Monarch's Sway,
Hear, and obey.

AIR.

Pluck Root and Branch out of the Land,
Shall we the God of Iſrael *fear ?*
Let Jewiſh *Blood dye every Hand,*
Nor Age, nor Sex we'll ſpare.
Raze, raze, their Temples to the Ground,
And let their Place no more be found.

Offic. Our Souls with Ardour glow,
To execute the Blow.

CHORUS.

Shall we the God of Iſrael *fear ?*
Nor Age, nor Sex we'll ſpare :
Pluck Root and Branch out of the Land.

SCENE IV.

ISRAELITES.

RECIT.

1ſt *Iſrael. Jeruſalem* no more ſhall mourn
In ſad Captivity forlorn:
The righteous God, in whom we truſt,
Will be propitious to the Juſt.
To Rapture, then, your Voices raiſe,
And change your Sighs to Songs of Praiſe.

AIR.

AIR.

Iſraelite Woman. *Tune your Harps to chearful Strains,*
Moulder Idols into Duſt;
Great JEHOVAH *lives and reigns,*
We in Great JEHOVAH *truſt.*

RECIT.

2d *Iſrael.* Shall we of Servitude complain,
The heavy Yoke and galling Chain!

AIR.

Iſraelite Woman. *Praiſe the Lord with chearful Noiſe,*
Wake my Glory, wake my Lyre;
Praiſe the Lord each mortal Voice,
Praiſe the Lord, ye heavenly Choir.

SCENE V.

Enter MORDECAI.

Mord. How have our Sins provok'd the Lord!
Wild Perſecution hath unſheath'd the Sword.
Haman hath ſent forth his Decree:
The Sons of *Iſrael*, all,
Shall in one Ruin fall.
Methinks I hear the Mother's Groans,
While Babes are daſh'd againſt the Stones.
I hear the Infants ſhriller Screams,
Stabb'd at the Mother's Breaſt;
Blood ſtains the Murderer's Veſt,
And thro' the City flows in Streams.

CHO-

CHORUS.

Ye Sons of Iſrael, *mourn,*
Ye never to your Country ſhall return.

AIR.

Mord. *O* Jordan, Jordan, *ſacred Tide!*
Shall we no more behold thee glide
The fertile Vales along,
As in our great Forefathers Days?
Shall not thy Hills reſound with Praiſe,
And learn our holy Song?

CHORUS.

Ye Sons of Iſrael *mourn,*
Ye never to your Country ſhall return.

The End of the Firſt Act.

ACT II. SCENE I.

ESTHER, and Chorus of *Iſraelites.*

CHORUS.

TYrants may a while preſume
They never ſhall, receive their Doom;
But they ſoon ſhall, trembling, know,
Stern Juſtice ſtrikes the ſureſt Blow.

SCENE

SCENE II.

Enter MORDECAI.

RECIT.

Eſth. Why ſits that Sorrow on thy Brow?
Why is thy reverend Head
With mournful Aſhes ſpread?
Why is that humble Sackcloth worn?
Speak, *Mordecai*, my Kinſman, Friend,
Speak, and let *Eſther* know
Why all this ſolemn Woe.
Mord. One Fate involves us all:
Haman's Decree,
To ſtrike at me,
Hath ſaid that every *Jew* ſhall fall.
Go ſtand before the King with weeping Eye.
Eſth. Who goes unſummon'd, by the Law ſhall die.

AIR.

Mord. *Dread not, righteous Queen, the Danger;*
Love will pacify his Anger:
Fear is due to God alone.
Follow Great JEHOVAH'S *Calling,*
For thy Kindred's Safety falling,
Death is better than a Throne.

RECIT.

Iſrael. Wom. O Heaven, protect her with thy tender Care,
And make the King propitious to her Prayer.

AIR.

AIR Duet.

Iſraelite Woman, and Mordecai.

Bleſſings deſcend on downy Wings,
Angels guard her on her Way:
New Life our Royal Eſther *brings,*
Since our Cauſe ſhe pleads to Day.

RECIT.

Eſth. I go the Power of Grief to prove,
O may that Grief Compaſſion move.

AIR.

Tears aſſiſt me, Pity moving,
Juſtice cruel Fraud reproving;
Hear, O God! thy Servant's Prayer.
Is it Blood that muſt atone?
Take, O take my Life alone,
And thy choſen People ſpare!

CHORUS.

Save us, O Lord!
And blunt the wrathful Sword!

SCENE III.

ASSUERUS, ESTHER, *and Chorus of* Iſraelites.

Aſſuer. Who dares intrude into our Preſence without our Leave!
It is decreed,
He dies for this audacious Deed.
Hah! *Eſther* there!
The Law condemns, but Love will ſpare.
Eſth. My Spirits ſink, alas! I faint.
Aſſuer. Ye Powers! what Paleneſs ſpreads her beauteous Face!
Eſther, awake, thou faireſt of thy Race;

Awake, and live, 'tis my Command.
Behold the Golden Scepter in my Hand!
Sure Sign of Grace;
The bloody ſtern Decree
Was never meant, my Queen, to ſtrike at thee.

AIR Duet.

Eſth. *Who calls my parting Soul from Death?*
Aſſuer. *Awake, my Soul, my Life, my Breath.*
Eſth. *Hear my Suit, or elſe I die.*
Aſſuer. *Ask my Queen, can I deny?*

AIR.

Aſſuer. *O beauteous Queen, uncloſe thoſe Eyes,*
My Faireſt ſhall not bleed,
Hear Love's ſoft Voice that bids thee riſe,
And bids thy Suit ſucceed.

Eſth. If I find Favour in thy Sight,
May the Great Monarch of the *Eaſt*
Honour my Feaſt,
And deign to be his Servants Gueſt.
The King, and *Haman* I invite.

AIR.

Aſſuer. *How can I ſtay when Love invites!*
I come, my Queen, to chaſt Delights.
With Joy, with Pleaſure I obey;
To thee I give the Day.

[Exeunt. Manent *Iſraelites.*

SCENE IV.

1ſt *Iſrael.* With inward Joy his Viſage glows,
He to the Queen's Appartment goes:
Beauty has his Fury charm'd,
And all his Wrath diſarm'd.
Beauty will her Power maintain;
What can Beauty crave in vain?

AIR.

Heaven has lent her every Charm,
Riſing Fury to diſarm;
And the Monarch's Breaſt will prove,
That each Paſſion yields to Love.

2d *Iſrael.* The King will liſten to his royal Fair,
And own her lovely Prevalence of Prayer.

ANTHEM.

God is our Hope, and he will cauſe the King to ſhew Mercy to Jacob's *Race.*
God ſave the King! long live the King! may the King live for ever! Amen.
Hallelujah.

The End of the Second Act.

ACT

ACT III. SCENE I.

MORDECAI *and Chorus of* ISRAELITES.

RECIT.

Mord. JEHOVAH, crown'd with Glory bright,
Surrounded with eternal Light;
Whoſe Miniſters are Flames of Fire,
Ariſe, and execute thine Ire.

CHORUS.

He comes! he comes to end our Woes,
And pour his Vengeance on our Foes! [Exeunt.

SCENE II.

ASSUERUS, HAMAN, ESTHER *and* Iſraelites.

Aſſuer. Now, O my Queen, thy Suit declare,
Ask half my Empire, it is thine.
Eſth. O gracious King, my People ſpare,
For in their Lives you ſtrike at mine.
Reverſe the dire Decree;
The Blow is aim'd at *Mordecai* and me.
And is the Fate of *Mordecai* decreed,
Who, when the Ruffian's Sword
Sought to deſtroy my Royal Lord,
Brought forth to Light the deſp'rate Deed!

Aſſuer. Yes, yes, I own,
To him alone
I owe my Life and Throne.
Say, then, my Queen, who dares purſue
The Life to which Reward is due.
Eſth. 'Tis *Haman*'s Hate
That ſign'd his Fate.
Aſſuer. I ſwear by yon bright Globe of Light,
That rules the Day,
That *Haman*'s Sight
Shall never more behold the golden Ray!

AIR.

Ham. Turn not, O Queen, thy Face away,
Behold me proſtrate on the Ground!
O ſpeak, his glowing Fury ſtay,
Let Mercy in thy Sight be found.

AIR.

Eſth. Flatt'ring Tongue, no more I'll hear thee,
Vain are all thy cruel Wiles;
Barb'rous Wretch, no more I fear thee,
Vain thy Frowns, and vain thy Smiles.
Tyrant, when of Power poſſeſs'd,
Now thou trembleſt, when diſtreſs'd.

RECIT.

Aſſuer. Guards, ſeize the Traitor, bear him hence,
Death ſhall reward the proud Offence.

To *Mordecai* be Honour paid;
The royal Garment bring:
My Diadem ſhall grace his Head;
Let him in Triumph thro' the Streets be led,
Who ſav'd the King.

AIR.

Thro' the Nation he ſhall be
Next in Dignityto me;
All my People ſhall revere
Merit to their Prince ſo dear.

Daily to his honour'd Name
Incenſe ſhall on Altars flame;
Whilſt applauding Crowds, around,
Shall his deathleſs Fame reſound.

CHORUS.

All applauding Crowds, around,
Shall his deathleſs Fame reſound.

AIR.

Ham. *How art thou fallen from thy Height!*
Tremble Ambition at the Sight,
In Power let Mercy ſway,

When

When adverſe Fortune be thy Lot,
Leſt thou by Mercy be forgot,
And periſh in that Day.

AIR.

Eſth. *I'll proclaim the wond'rous Story*
Of the Mercies I receive,
From the Day-ſpring's dawning Glory,
'Till the fading Beam of Eve.

Iſr. Wom. *All the Bleſſings Heaven is lending,*
Well demand our grateful Lays,
To his radiant Throne aſcending,
Wafted on the Wings of Praiſe.

AIR Duet.

In exalted Raptures joining,
We'll employ our happy Days,
All our grateful Pow'rs combining
To declare his endleſs Praiſe.

SCENE

SCENE III.

Iſraelites *with* MORDECAI *in Triumph.*

Grand CHORUS.

The LORD *our Enemy has ſlain,*
Hallelujah, *ſolo.*
Ye Sons of Jacob, *ſing a chearful Strain.*
Hallelujah, *ſolo.*
Sing Hymns of Praiſe, bow down the Knee,
Hallelujah, *ſolo.*
The Worſhip of our GOD *is free.*
Hallelujah, *ſolo.*
For ever bleſſed be his holy Name,
Let Heaven and Earth his Praiſe proclaim.
Hallelujah.

FINIS.

DM